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MAR 03 2005

PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No.: NC 96,202

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of: Keller et al.

Serial No.: 10/808,266

Filed: 03/17/2004

For: OLIGOMERIC HYDROXY ARYLETHER PHTHALONITILES AND SYNTHESIS  
THEREOF

Examiner: Truong, Duc

Art Group Unit: 1711

Honorable Commissioner of Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 3, 2005

## RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

In response to the Office action of 12/08/2004, setting a three month shortened statutory period of reply, please consider the following remarks.

Claims 14-21 and 38-56 are pending in the application. No claims are presently allowed.

## Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14-21 and 38-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Keller et al. (US 4,256,471).

Claim 1 is to a thermoset formed by curing a mixture comprising a phthalonitrile monomer  $C_6(CN)_2H_3-O-Ar-(O-Ar)_n-C_6(CN)_2H_3$ . Each Ar is an independently selected divalent aromatic radical with or without substituents containing one or more fused aromatic rings, one or more non-fused aromatic rings without intervening functional groups, or combinations thereof wherein the radical sites are on the same or different aromatic rings. n is an even integer greater than or equal to 2.

Keller discloses a thermoset made from  $C_6(CN)_2H_3-(O-\phi)_x-O-C_6(CN)_2H_3$  and states that

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3/3/05  
Date

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Cover Sheet + 6 Pages**Message:**

RE: Patent Application No.: 10/808,266

Filed: 03/17/2004

Inventor: Keller et al.

Docket No.: NC 96,202

Response to Rejection – 4 pages

Declaration – 2 pages

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